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150 Broadway, New York, 7, N. Y.

JPL  
"AGRICULTURAL FRONT"

(For Immediate Broadcast)

(January, 1944)

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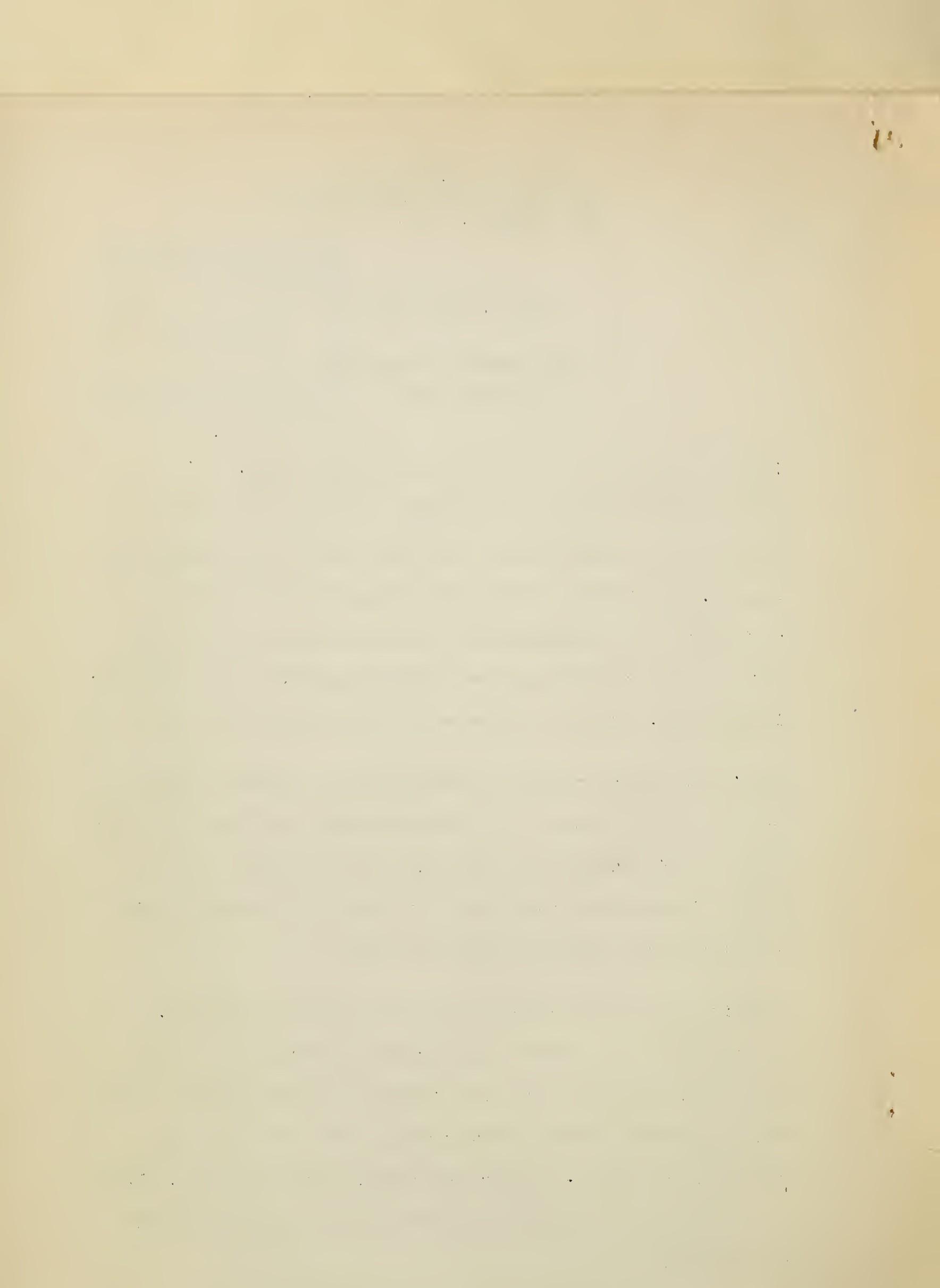
JUL 26 1945

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Today we begin a new year on the Agricultural Front. It's slated to be a decisive year in the progress of the war and another important year in Agriculture. As we all know, food production and its use, and military progress are strongly linked together. So, as farmers and as consumers there are many questions that we are likely to ask right now, as we anticipate planting food and eating it this year. First, a review of the farm outlook for 1944.

Here's the general picture: Barring serious draughts, floods, or other severe weather, total crop production next year is expected to be 4 to 6 percent larger than this year's record. The War Food Administration program calls for 380 million acres in 1944 -- 16 million more than were planted in 1943.

This is the story for some of our most important food crops. Starting with milk, which is particularly important to you, we need all we can get -- at least 122 billion pounds. That's about three percent more than is being produced this year. The same story goes for eggs -- another food high in nutritive value. Every egg produced will be needed for both military and civilian food requirements.



Next, the meat situation. Because feed supplies are limited producers have been asked to raise about 17 percent fewer hog than were raised this record year, when over 121 million head came to market. About nineteen percent more beef cattle will be slaughtered in 1944, to balance limited feed supplies which are needed to stretch around for that increased dairy and egg production. That's the livestock program. Now, for crops.

We're looking forward to a wheat crop that should be slightly over one fourth larger than 1943's....68 million acres altogether. This is necessary because we're using our wheat at a faster rate now, and digging into our reserves. Farmers are being asked to plant 14 million acres of soybeans. That goal is 22 percent over last year's production of this important war crop. Peanuts will grow on 5 and a half million acres of American farm-land and produce nearly one-third more vegetable oils for food and for industrial uses from this one source alone. Cotton production will remain about the same as this year's.

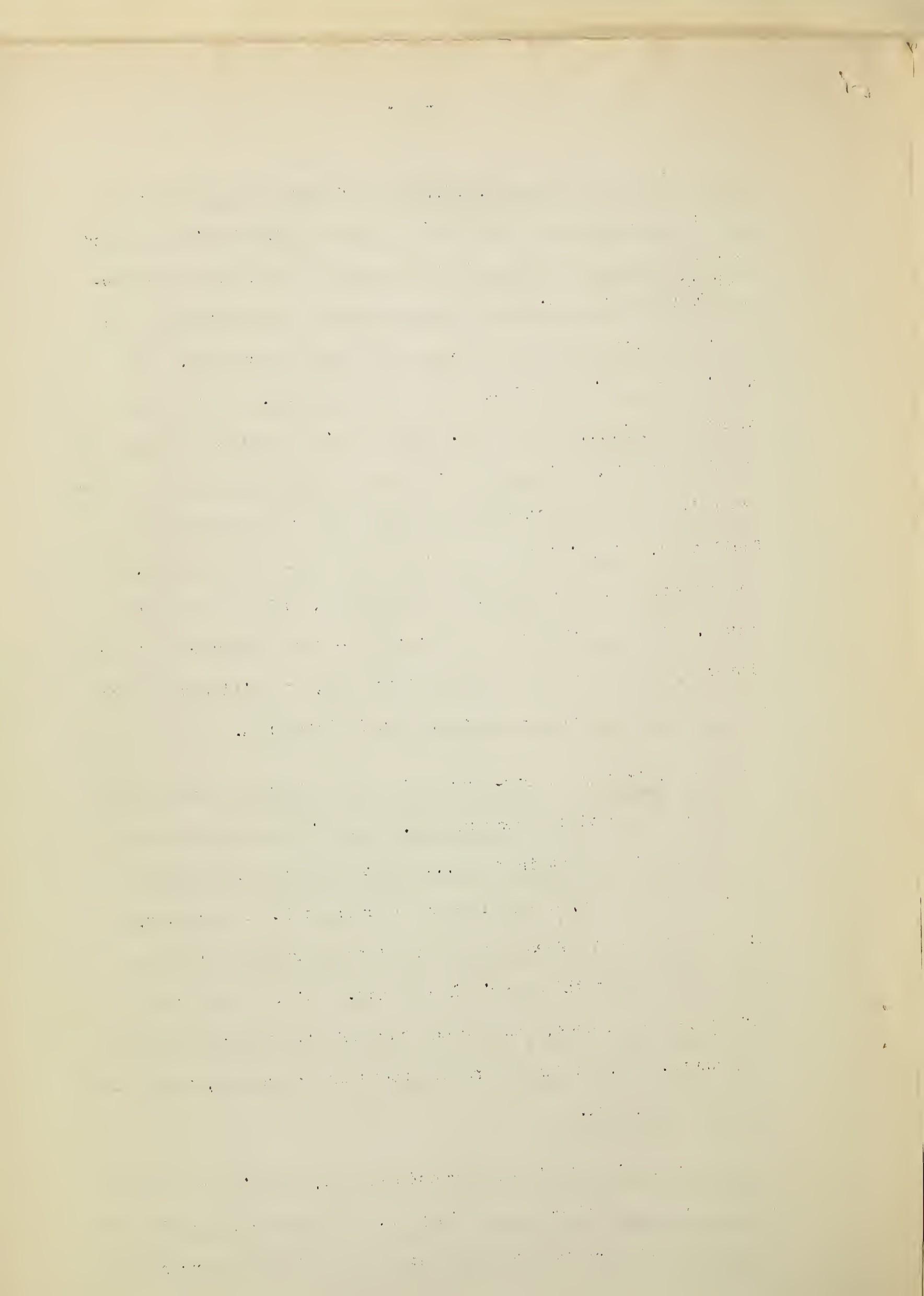
Every farmer is interested in the feed essential to meet our goals for important animal food products. The main job is to get maximum production from the available acreage. This will call for shifting from lower to higher yielding feed crops in many cases. We'll have to increase both corn and hay by three percent each over this year's production. Goals are set for less acreage in oats, barley, and sorghums.



That's the story on food production. Now what are we going to have to eat? How about the civilian food supply for '44? Reports from the Civilian Food Requirements branch of the Food Distribution Administration tell us that we'll have enough food for good nutrition and for high productive effort, 75% of the total production. And here's a note I'm sure many of you will welcome. We will have plenty of variety in our food. There won't be many big changes in our food habits, although we are producing more foods that are less expensive to produce in terms of land, labor and distribution facilities. There'll be very large dried bean and pea crops, with plenty of both available to homemakers, and at low point values. You know the story on potatoes -- the largest crop in the history of the world was produced this year, so we'll have plenty to eat and enough sweet-potatoes, high in Vitamin A.

Nineteen hundred and forty-four will see a slightly larger share of meat -- for civilian consumption. And we're asking for good supplies of other protein foods...almost as much poultry meat as we had this year, and we hope more fresh fish. Altogether, this should come to about 149 pounds of meat protein for each one of us, against this year's 146 pounds. We'll have about a half dozen eggs a week, and a good share of soya flour and grits and peanuts. So, as far as protein foods are concerned, there will be more than enough.

With fats and other foods that provide energy, there'll be about the same amount as there were this year. Butter supplies will continue to be short -- but we can count on a little more margarine,



and about the same amount of lard. It adds up to about a quarter of a pound a week for butter, an ounce of margarine and a half pound of lard or other shortening. Potatoes and grain products are other large "energy" crops, in adequate supply.

Cheese and fluid milk supplies should remain the same as they were in '43, although we cannot be too sure of these allocations, because milk production is not being maintained at the recent high levels. There should also be an increase in leafy green and yellow vegetables, tomatoes, and citrus fruits, and other vegetables and fruits, all highly essential to good health, and needed to contribute a good share of vitamins and minerals required in the daily diet.

Altogether we're going to eat well next year, especially considering increased military needs for our food, and the provisions now being made to help prevent starvation in liberated areas.

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A few weeks ago poultry producers, hatcherymen, and the trade, along with representatives of the War Food Administrations and Extension workers met in Chicago to plan adjustments in production of eggs and poultry to feed supplies. These adjustments call for 16 percent fewer broilers than were raised in 1943; four percent fewer farm raised chickens; and about three percent fewer turkeys.

By culling the laying flocks, farmers can get more efficient production by giving the good birds a chance to produce to capacity.



Poultrymen can add to their number decreased in culling by raising a good crop of pullets in the spring. County Agents will be on the job to help farmers with the culling job they'll be doing this month.

For eggs, the 1944 goal is a production about equal to that of 1943. The number of layers on hand January 1, 1944 is from 25 to 50 million more than the 487 million on hand January 1, 1943. A larger proportion than usual of these layers are from late hatched chicks. Consequently, to meet the 1944 egg goal, the number of layers should be adjusted to the January 1943 number by orderly culling of nonlaying birds, especially old birds and slow maturing, undersized pullets. Getting rid of these unproductive birds will save feed for the better layers and for the 1944 chick crop. If these excess unproductive birds are retained in laying flocks, they will consume the feed needed for the 925 million chicks to be raised on farms in 1944 and the 208 million commercial broilers to be produced.

Right now receipts of eggs at most of the markets here in the Northeast Region are very heavy. So, effective January 3 the Food Distribution Administration is prepared to receive offers of eggs on a carload basis. This egg buying program is under the supervision of Francis D. Cronin, Regional Director. In order to be considered, eggs must be offered in carload lots -- and they must be candled and graded. Eggs in both new and good used containers will be acceptable. Eggs must fall within consumer grades A and B and can be either



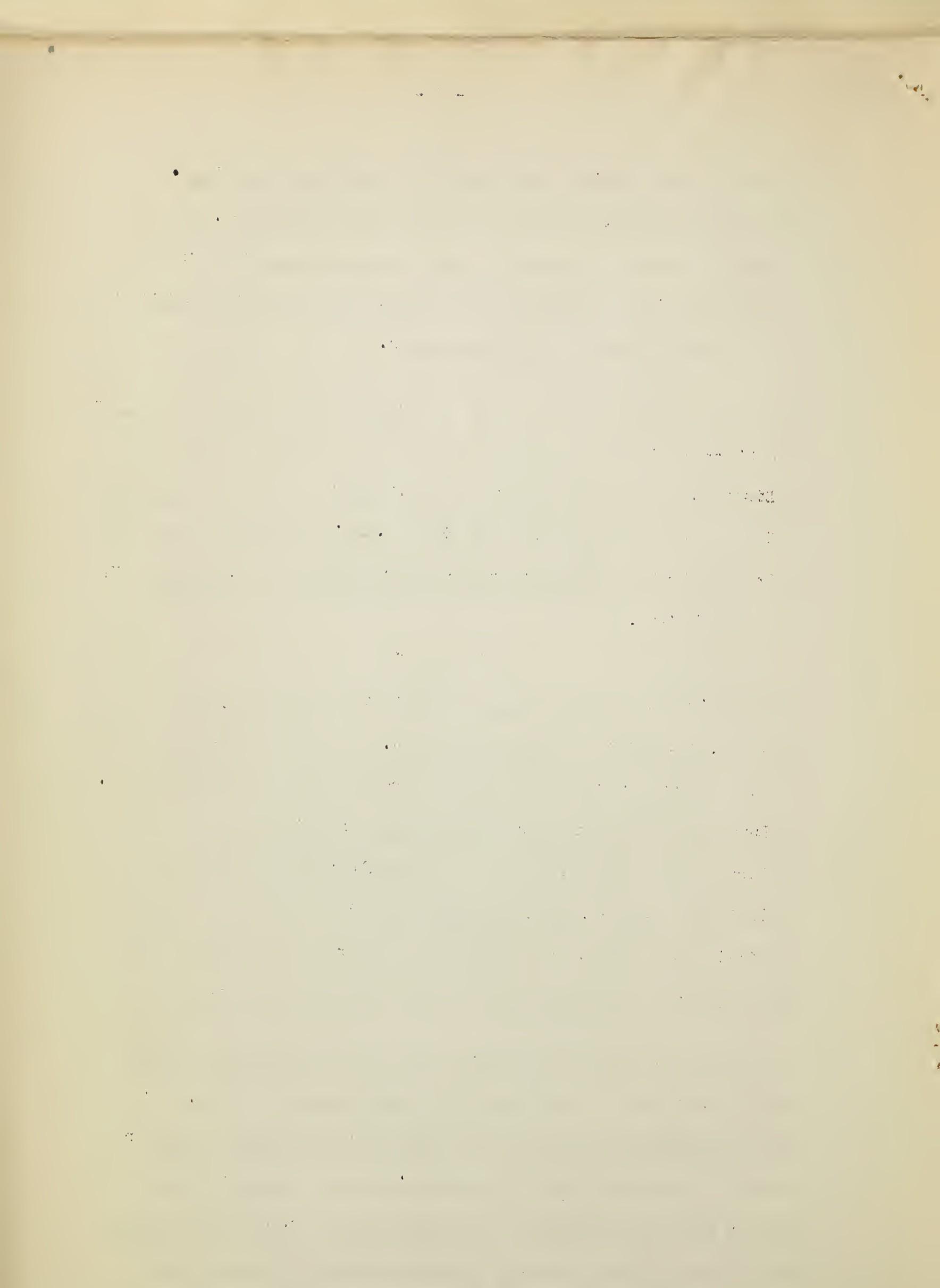
large or medium sizes. The eggs will be made available to charitable institutions and for school lunch programs. This purchase program is designed to help maintain general price levels which were assured to egg producers when previously they were asked to increase egg production.

If you have carload lots of eggs you wish to offer to the Government -- inquire at your nearest State or Area office of the Food Distribution Administration or inquire for details at the Regional Office at 150 Broadway, New York City. I'll repeat that address - Food Distribution Administration, Regional Office, 150 Broadway, New York City.

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If you're close enough to the forest so that you can see the trees, this item should interest you. Farmers are one of the largest groups of users of forest products in the United States. Lumber used on farms for the construction and maintenance of farm buildings requires three and a half billion board feet of lumber every year. Boxes and crates add another two and a half billion board feet, plus pulp wood requirements for cartons and bags, wood for farm machinery, and other miscellaneous uses.

At the present time war needs and farm uses are putting a heavy load on our all-over lumber and pulp wood shortage. So, War Food Administration Marvin Jones suggest that you take action along the following lines where it's possible: Increase production from farm woodlands during the winter. And you can further help the situation by working in forest industries during the



slack winter season on the farms. Selective Service regulations permit farmers and farm workers to do such seasonal work without losing their deferred classification in Agriculture.

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We're off to an impressive start on the Agricultural Front for 1944, with plans for greater food production, for bigger home gardens, and with reassuring reports of enough food for civilian consumption. But the real test of our ability to produce and conserve our food supplies lies ahead. Yes, 1944 will be a decisive and important year. Resolve now that it will be a record year for you in meeting food goals, and in getting the greatest dividends in health from all the food consumed in your home.

